



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TSA Employee Arrested on Charges of Bribing Juror

St. Thomas, USVI - Ikim Blackett, an employee of the Transportation and Security Administration, appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller in district court on St. Thomas Wednesday after being arrested and charged in a one-count indictment with offering to bribe a juror, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced today. Following a detention hearing, Judge Miller set bail for Blackett at \$100,000, and ordered home confinement with electronic monitoring.

The indictment alleges that Blackett sought out and offered to pay a juror fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) for the juror to return a not guilty verdict in a case in which the juror was sitting. If convicted, Blackett faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

This case is being investigated by a joint local/federal public corruption task force. The task force comprises the Virgin Islands Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshals Service, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Anyone with information related to public corruption is asked to call the task force at (340) 715-6516.

An indictment is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.